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Tell CIA, Conlisk talks while he was cop chief

By Betty Washington

Former Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. has testified that he met with CIA officials in Chicago and in Washington while he was superintendent.

Conlisk's remarks are contained in a 227-page deposition taken in connection with a civil rights suit filed by families of Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, who were killed in a 1969 raid.

Conlisk was questioned in April by lawyer G. Flint Taylor, who is seeking to learn if the CIA spied on Panther activities before the December, 1969, raid on a Black Panther apartment, or whether the CIA was directly involved in the raid.

CONLISK TESTIFIED that he met with the CIA between 1967 and 1972 but said he could not recall specific dates. He said he attended a CIA-sponsored weapons demonstration at a Virginia farm used as a CIA training center.

When asked if he had discussed CIA activities concerning "subversives" in Chi-

cago," Conlisk replied: "I do not recall."

Conlisk acknowledged that he was aware that Chicago police officers had taken part in a CIA weapons demonstration. But when pressured by Taylor to say whether officers had returned to the training center, Conlisk said:

"There may have been another training session or there may not have been, I cannot recall specifically."

THE ROCKEFELLER Com-

mission report on the CIA released last month indicated that some Chicago police officers had received training from the CIA. But the report didn't specify what kind of instruction was provided for Chicago police or how many Chicago police officers attended.

At one point, Conlisk testified: "I had the recollection of Chicago police officers having been at the CIA, but I do not recall the specific year."

Conlisk also said he could not remember the name of a Chicago police official who had accompanied him to Washington.

FORMER CIA chief Richard Helms was reported last month as having said that the CIA helped the Chicago Police Department revamp its record system in 1969 or early 1970.

According to Helms, Conlisk accepted the CIA's offer of assistance after Helms approached police chiefs of four or five major cities. Only Conlisk accepted the offer, Helms said.

Helms made the disclosures in 1973 during Senate Foreign

Relations Committee Confirmation hearings on his position as ambassador to Iran.

IN HIS testimony, Conlisk said the Chicago meetings with the CIA took place in the police superintendent's office. He said he did not recall the names of the CIA representatives.

Conlisk testified that the purpose of the Virginia weapons demonstration was to show police officials the kinds of weapons used "throughout the world in efforts to create chaos, to overthrow governments and permit varieties of crimes, including but not limited to arson and murder."

The families of the slain Panthers have demanded millions of dollars in damages from former State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan and participants in the raid.

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